

CITY OF BIXBY NEWSLETTER

“Southern suburb thriving”



“Southern suburb thriving”. So read the headline in the May 23, 2013 edition of the Tulsa World, explaining the city of Bixby's population had grown by 4.9 percent to 22,580 residents during the year ending June 30, 2012, a net increase of 1,058. This means Bixby was once again one of the fastest growing cities in the state, and has now grown by 69.3 percent since 2000! The report confirmed what you and I already know: Bixby is a friendly, attractive and rewarding place in which to relocate and prosper, and one of the most sought-after communities in Oklahoma.

Without a doubt, the number one reason people move here is because of Bixby's excellent public schools system. It is simply one of the best in our state. We are also the safest community in the state for cities our size, are known for being both 'people friendly' and 'business friendly', and feature a great quality of life. CNNMoney.com a few years ago selected Bixby as one of its Best Places to Live in America, designating it one of America's best small towns. Bixby offers some of the state's most beautiful new housing developments. Residents enjoy our “small town feel”, yet find a surprising number of amenities typically found only in much larger cities. And we also have a stable, progressive government.

Bixby's demographics are among the most attractive in Oklahoma, a fact increasingly catching the attention of commercial and retail developers. For example, Bixby has the highest per capita income in the Tulsa metro region, and third highest in the state, at \$37,368; our average household income, at \$99,300, and our percentage of residents holding college degrees, at 40%, are each among the highest found in Oklahoma, and we have the highest median home value in the greater Tulsa region, at \$186,600, fully 72% higher than the statewide average. Our average new home construction price is \$380,000. Our permitting processes are hailed for being much faster than those of other cities.

Your elected city officials and staff work with our partners at the award-winning Bixby Metro Chamber of Commerce to aggressively promote Bixby as a desirable place in which to locate a business. Two new major grocery stores, Reasors and Sprouts Farmers Market, have recently opened in Bixby, to rave reviews. They are setting records and providing area residents and visitors with vast new shopping opportunities. These complement our popular Doc's Country Store and Aldi's grocers, and our regionally-famous traditional farmers markets, which have long been destination points.



Reasor's located at 11116 S. Memorial Dr. ↑



Sprouts located at 10111 S. Memorial Dr. ↑

Continued on page 2

As our City Manager explains in an article found on pages 4 and 5, your patronage at these and our other fine retailers and restaurants located within our official city limits has a direct bearing on your municipal government's ability to maintain our community's quality of life, by generating sales tax dollars required to finance your public safety, streets and parks needs. For your family's sake, please make a special point to shop local and “Buy Bixby” whenever possible.

As other articles included in this newsletter explain, one of Bixby's challenges is -- and will remain -- expanding and maintaining our community's infrastructure to keep pace with our continued population growth. We are grateful for voters' continued support of our General Obligation bond issues which provide much needed capital funding, and for our utility customers, who enable us to invest in our utility systems and satisfy state/federal regulatory requirements.

In addition to the opening of the beautiful Encore on Memorial apartments on Memorial, we've seen this past year many new businesses open, such as Whataburger, Kubota rentals, renovation of Schlotsky's and McDonald's restaurants, and coming soon, the new Andy's Frozen Custard, Panda Express, and Raisin Cane's restaurants. The Spirit Bank Event Center is once again home of the Tulsa 66'ers NBA developmental league professional basketball team, farm club for the world renown Oklahoma Thunder, and is hosting various special events for your family's enjoyment. Finally, our Bentley Sports Complex continues to wow visitors attending regional and national tournaments, bringing additional business to our community, all the while providing our youth with some of the finest in recreational opportunities in the Midwest.



Best regards—Mayor Ray Bowen

Several Options for Paying Your Water Bill

Did you know you have several payment options for paying your water bill? These include:

- **Payment by check, through the US mail:**
Make checks payable to BPWA.
Include your stub or write your water account number on the memo line.
Mail to: BPWA, PO Box 70, Bixby, OK 74008
- **The Payment Counter** at the Municipal Building will accept cash, check, Master Card or Visa M-F from 8:00A – 4:30P and is located at 116 W. Needles.
- **The Drop Box** will accept checks (DO NOT PAY WITH CASH) seven days a week, 24-hrs a day, and is located at 116 W. Needles on the west end of the Municipal Building.
- You may quickly **pay on-line** using either Master Card or Visa, 24-hrs a day. Simply go to www.bixby.com and click on “Make an on-line payment”. A \$1.25 convenience fee applies.
- **Pay electronically through your bank's electronic bill pay application**, 24-hrs a day. See your bank for details.
- **And the most convenient of all, Auto Draft Payments**, can be set-up by completing and returning the Auto Draft Authorization Form. You can request a form by calling City Hall (918-366-4430) or by printing it off the City's website.

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AUTO DRAFT PAYMENTS -- THE MOST CONVENIENT METHOD OF ALL!! Sign up today!!

- The Bixby Public Works Authority (BPWA) invites you to sign up for its Automatic Bill Payment Plan, a special customer service that will save you time and money every month. By using the Plan, you'll save time by avoiding unnecessary check writing, save money in postage and checks, and never have to worry about your payment arriving on time.
- Just complete the Auto Draft Authorization Form, attach a voided check, and return to BPWA either by mail or in person. The BPWA will process your request within 30-60 days after you return the authorization.
- Once you're on the Plan, your monthly utility statement will reflect the amount drafted from your bank account on the 15th of each month; if on a weekend or holiday, your monthly payment will be drafted on the next business day.
- If you have a question concerning your bill, you will have at least 10 days each month to give the City a call before the amount due will be deducted from your checking account. You may discontinue using the Plan at any time by contacting our office. Sign up for Auto Draft Payment Plan today! You'll be glad you did!

Last July 1st, 2012, a pending order by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), requiring the City of Bixby to expand and modernize its sanitary sewer treatment facilities to accommodate the community's burgeoning population, triggered a multi-year, phased-in sewer rate hike for City of Bixby utility customers. The second year of the scheduled successive annual sewer rate hike takes effect July 1st, 2013, and will first appear on utility bills mailed to customers at the end of July. A notice of the impending increase was included in the memo section of bills mailed to customers at the end of May, 2013. For related story see page 6 "Waste Water Treatment Facilities".



The 2012 series of increases represented the first such increases in Bixby's sewer rates in 14 years, after not having been changed since March, 1998. The process will gradually bring our community's sewer rates into line with rates which utility customers in area cities with modern sanitary sewer treatment facilities have been paying for many years.

"The treatment processes employed by the City of Bixby for decades and based on a small service population can no longer support the City's demands given our growth over the last 15 years," City Manager Doug Enevoldsen noted. "Our population having recently eclipsed 23,000 people, Bixby has been one of the fastest growing cities in the state this past decade, and we only see ourselves continuing to grow in the coming years. Additional families are choosing to live in Bixby each week and placing additional demands on our utility infrastructure. So it only logical that we must periodically re-invest in our utility systems to keep pace with this demand, and modify rates to finance the capital investment and associated increases in operating costs. The use of lower cost sewage lagoons will no longer be an option for us. We must construct our own mechanical treatment plant or tie into a regional facility, and in light of the ODEQ order, we simply have no choice but to act at this time," he continued.

Sanitary Sewer Rates

For the period 07-01-12 through 06-30-13, the City of Bixby's sanitary sewer service residential base rate was \$6.75 for the first 1,000 gallons of water usage per month and \$1.75 per thousand gallons after the first 1,000 gallons. The new rate structure, effective 07-01-13 through 06-30-14, will be \$7.75 for the residential base rate with \$2.85 for each 1,000 gallons thereafter. The maximum monthly residential charge, \$20.00 for the period 07-01-12 through 06-30-13, will become \$30.00 effective July 1, 2013. These rates will gradually be modified upward in each of the following three years.

What will the July 1, 2013 rate hike mean for my monthly sewer bill?

Bixby sewer customers consuming on average 2,000 gallons of water per month would see their sewer bills rise by \$2.10 per month, or 7 cents per day. Customers consuming on average 5,000 gallons of water per month would see their sewer bills rise by \$5.40 per month, or 17 cents per day. Customers consuming on average 10,000 gallons of water per month would see their sewer bills rise by \$10.00 per month, or 32 cents per day. On average, 11% of Bixby water customers use 2,000 gallons per month or less; 27% use between 2,000 and 5,000 gallons per month; 31% use between 5,000 and 10,000 gallons per month, and; 31% use more than 10,000 gallons per month.

Monthly Stormwater Management Fee

Effective July 1, 2013, the monthly stormwater management fee assessed to Bixby commercial customers, will increase to \$2.80 per ESU, from \$2.40 per ESU (equivalent surface unit), as part of a multi-year phased-in adjustment initiated last year. There will be no change to the current \$4 monthly stormwater management fee assessed residential customers. Stormwater fees were adjusted for the first time in their 25 year history, at this time last year to restore lost purchasing power, maintain our community's stormwater infrastructure, and keep up with federal government requirements.

Water Rates

Effective October 1st, 2013, the City of Bixby's supplier of treated water, the City of Tulsa, will increase its sales price for treated water by 7%, the increase to be reflected on Bixby water customers' water bills at the end of October.

Invest in your family's safety and quality of life — Always Buy Bixby First!

PAGE 4

As relayed in the front page article by Mayor Ray Bowen, the City of Bixby is experiencing phenomenal population growth with thousands of families coming here to add to our community and enjoy our premier schools and excellent quality of life. Bixby has been transformed from a small farm town to a burgeoning modern suburb. And like any other high growth city in the nation, we have faced -- and will continue to -- our share of growing pains.

So far we've done a pretty good job of expanding our infrastructure to keep up with your needs and growth, including devising a multi-year plan for overhauling our community's sewer treatment system. But it can be very difficult because: 1) in our state, a portion of the total sales tax bill included within your total purchase is distributed back to the local government where you take possession of those goods or services. * Oklahoma requires its cities to fund their day-to-day operations primarily through local sales taxes, rather than property taxes**, and; 2) we are located directly across the street from a relatively retail-intensive urban city (Tulsa). Fortunately, there is something you can do about it. The answer - always first try to Buy Bixby!

Sometimes it's a challenge. Many of our residents have difficulty distinguishing where Bixby ends and Tulsa begins. I understand that. It is confusing. Our borders are intertwined, and oddly, Bixby homes located within the one square mile between 101st and 111th Streets South, Memorial Dr. and Mingo Rd. actually carry a Tulsa 74133 address rather than the standard Bixby 74008 ZIP Code address found throughout the rest of Bixby. These residents are often puzzled when our Bixby police officers and firefighters arrive at their homes to respond to their 911 calls.

Dotted city boundary lines on a street map aren't the first thing on your mind when shopping or going out to eat. But they really matter. Fortunately, while Bixby's retail and dining options were once rather limited, they've expanded significantly during the past several years and even months, and will continue to do so in the future. Our array of full service and specialty grocers now makes us the envy of most other communities, with restaurant varieties ever growing, and there being great choices of all kinds of businesses on both sides of the river.

Bixby's most northern border on the west side of Memorial is the southwest corner of 111th & Memorial. So when you shop at the new Reasors, Lowe's, or the adjacent Walgreens, (or any business south of those) you are in Bixby and investing a portion of your total shopping bill in local government services which directly benefit your own family, such as police, fire, streets and parks services. If, however, you cross the street north, to the northwest corner of



111th & Memorial, and shop at, say, the Super Wal Mart or other business north of there, you are actually in Tulsa, and sending your family's sales tax dollars to improve the public safety and other local government services for Tulsans.



On the east side of Memorial, Bixby runs one mile further north, up to and including the CVS Pharmacy and Sprouts on the southeast side of 101st & Memorial. When you shop there or at any business south of those, you're investing in the very local Bixby public services on which your family and neighborhood depend. If you cross north, however, to the northeast corner

of 101st & Memorial to dine, or to shop at, say, Super Target, you are instead sending your family's hard-earned income to Tulsa. For a detailed map of Bixby's city limits, see www.bixby.com

Much of what you routinely shop for can currently be found in Bixby. For a larger item which is either not sold here in Bixby or you choose to buy at a store elsewhere, here is an important tip: when it makes sense to do so, rather than take delivery at the store, have them deliver your purchase to your Bixby home address! Then the Bixby sales tax will be applied and allocated to support your family's local government services, not those of families living in that other city.

You have a say in where the sales taxes you pay get spent, when you shop in your own city. When writing the City's budget for the forthcoming year, your elected representatives on the Bixby City Council place their highest priority on providing quality public safety to our citizens. This year was no different. Those 2 cents of sales tax are expected to generate \$4.7 million for fiscal year 2013-14 General Fund operations, with a virtually identical sum of \$4.7 million being budgeted for public safety alone! I'm pleased to say this includes a 50% expansion in our Police Department's highly successful School Resource Officer (SRO) program, achieved via a funding partnership with Bixby Public Schools.

Continued on page 5

Invest in your family's safety and quality of life — Always Buy Bixby First! (Continued from page 4)

PAGE 5

I'm also proud to note that only one city in the state (Oklahoma City) has a more favorable bond rating than Bixby, and our municipality will spend less for administration in the coming year than we did a full five years ago. With only 100 full-time workers, the City of Bixby has the fewest number of municipal government employees relative to population served in the entire metro Tulsa region. We do this by: hiring quality employees, each of whom wear many hats; having relatively few administrative types; partnering with other entities and outsourcing many services; offering a limited scope of governmental services, and; staying very busy!

Your city officials work very hard to both promote sales of our existing businesses and recruit new ones to Bixby. From our highly successful holiday "Buy Bixby" shop local program, to aggressively recruiting new business year round, we try to make your life better. You can help us capture the attention of regional and national retailers by choosing -- whenever possible -- to shop or dine within Bixby's official city limits first when considering your options, boosting sales of businesses already here.

In closing, I understand this is a free country and firmly believe it your right to shop wherever you please. My point is simply this: local government services are not free, and you deserve to know how the taxes you pay get distributed, so you can make informed decisions you feel best meet your family's total needs.

Thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve you.

Doug Enevoldsen, City Manager



* Wherever you shop in the Tulsa metro region, you generally face a total combined (state, county, local) sales tax rate which is relatively similar. The combined rate found here in Bixby is pretty typical, it being 8.85 cents on a \$1 purchase. Of that, 4.5 cents goes to the state of Oklahoma, 0.85 cents to Tulsa County, and 3.5 cents to your City of Bixby. Of the latter, local voters have directed 1.5 cents go to fund our parks, equipment, sewer systems, and debt service, and the remaining 2 cents to the City's primary operating fund, the General Fund.

**In a 2010 editorial entitled, "Something has to give regarding how Oklahoma municipalities are financed", the Oklahoma observed, "Oklahoma municipalities are operating with an antiquated, dysfunctional financing model." For those brave readers interested in further explanation, I offer the following special focus on municipal finance in Oklahoma.

SPECIAL FOCUS: Municipal Finance in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA is the only state in the nation whose municipalities' operations are funded primarily from only the local sales tax, as opposed to the property tax or a combination of property tax and a local sales tax. In every other state, a portion of the local property taxes paid by property owners are distributed by law to fund day-to-day operating expenses of the local government responsible for providing public services to the property and its owner. It makes good sense.

Not only are property tax revenues inherently more stable than sales tax revenues, the addition of new homes creates a funding source to enable employment of the police, firefighters, street, and parks employees required to support and maintain the growing community's quality of life. Not so in Oklahoma. Except as noted below, when you pay your property taxes, those monies are by law distributed to support operations of the public schools, County government, Career Tech, Tulsa Community College, the Tulsa County Health Department, and the Tulsa County library system.

Oklahoma municipalities do not receive any property taxes to fund daily operations. They instead must rely primarily on the proceeds of local voter-approved retail sales taxes, and hope retailers and restaurants will locate within their official city limits to service their citizens' needs, and even draw business from outside their border, versus the opposite. To compound their difficulties, growing internet sales, which often escape sales taxation, have begun to further threaten the fiscal health of cities and towns, in addition to the viability of traditional main street retailers.

Oklahoma municipalities may access property tax revenues only to finance voter-approved General Obligation (G.O.) bond issues (to make capital improvement and purchase assets such as large equipment), or for payment of court-ordered judgments. In 2011, Bixby voters, by an overwhelming majority, approved a \$10 million G.O. bond issue, to finance local transportation, public safety, and quality of life improvements, such as at its award-winning Bentley Park. Bixby's total property tax levy is less than that found in neighboring Tulsa, Jenks, and Broken Arrow.

The City of Bixby's Long Term Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan, as mandated by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), has been developed over the past several months. See related article on page 3. The City has prepared its own financial analysis as well as participated in a financial analysis sponsored by the Regional Metropolitan Utility Authority (RMUA) of which Bixby is a voting member.

The City analysis initially concluded that construction of a new, mechanical Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) at the existing South Lagoon site was the most economical, independent option for wastewater disposal.

In order to explore a cooperative option for wastewater disposal, the City also participated in the RMUA Study to complete a connection of the City collection system to the RMUA-operated Haikey Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) located at the south end of Garnett Road, on the north side of the Arkansas River.

The results of the RMUA Study have led to additional discussion and negotiations with the RMUA to make a final determination of which sewage treatment option is the most economical system alternative for Bixby utility customers. Upon conclusion of the negotiations, the City will provide ODEQ with the selected alternative and initiate a design and construction program to complete facilities within the time frame that they dictate.

2011 Bond Projects

Transportation:

111th & Memorial – Right-of-way acquisition is nearing completion for this project which will increase traffic capacity by widening the intersection to 5-lanes on the east side of 111th, and provide for an entirely new subsurface drainage system. The widening operations will mimic the paving widening widths and taper distances installed at 121st and 131st, east of Memorial. The start of construction operations is anticipated for during the fall of this year.

111th & Mingo – Construction plans for this State funded project have been reviewed by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). Traffic signal warrants have been completed for the final phase of the Environmental clearance documents. As soon as right-of-way has been obtained, construction of the intersection widening to 3-lanes and installation of a traffic signal will begin. For the first phase of the project and prior to the intersection widening, Tulsa County will be replacing the bridge culvert at the stream crossing east of Mingo Road later this summer. Bridge materials have been acquired and delivered to the site. Commencement of intersection widening operations will be dependent upon release of project funding by ODOT.

121st & Mingo – As with the 111th & Mingo project, Construction plans have been reviewed by ODOT and signal warrants completed. Similarly, upon issuance of the Environmental clearance, right-of-way can be obtained, and construction of the intersection widening to 3-lanes and installation of a traffic signal will begin. Release of construction funds from ODOT will dictate the start of construction. No construction operations are anticipated during calendar 2013.

131st & Mingo – The Construction plans are complete for this project, which is identical in size and scope to the 111th and 121st & Mingo intersections. Application for ODOT funding on this project will be submitted for consideration during the next funding cycle. Construction of some of the intersection drainage systems may occur simultaneously with installation of the bridges for the Haikey Creek Flood Protection Project.

Parks & Trails:

Construction is nearing completion on the Bentley Park Sports Complex and Keas Soccer Field. Scheduled for completion within the next months, the remaining Master Plan elements to be completed include the new softball quad's parking lot and the Playground/Sprayground restrooms.

The Keas Field parking lot was opened this spring and the new Concession/Restroom facility for Keas Field will be ready for the fall season.

In addition to the Master Plan, the Bentley Park Sports Complex will see some additional features this fall.

The parking lot for baseball fields 1-4 will be expanded to cover the grassy areas currently used as temporary overflow.

A Sports Court supporting basketball, soccer, and volleyball will be constructed north of the International Soccer Field. The Sports Court will consist of six (6) outdoor courts, three (3) of which will be housed in a steel tube enclosure equipped with basketball goals, soccer goals, and volleyball posts. A multi-use, resilient surfacing will be used on the enclosed courts to support all event combinations. This facility, which is expected to be one of the nicest of its kind in the U.S., promises to further boost Bentley Park's positive impact on our local economy through hosting of tournaments.

Washington Irving Park/Charley Young Park – Utilizing G.O. Bond proceeds as matching funds, grant application will be made to the Oklahoma Department of Tourism in hopes of making a greater amount of park improvements at both locations. The grant program will permit a greatly expanded project scope as the grant to matching fund ratio is 3:1.

Trail System – Application for funding extensions to the Fry Creek Trail system has been made under both the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation grant programs. If the current applications are successful, the first extension phases could begin in 2014. Through collaboration with INCOG and the City of Tulsa, a connection point to the Creek Turnpike Trail has been identified near Mingo, allowing the City to focus efforts on sequentially constructing the proposed Trail segments in phases.

Other Projects

Trails Projects:

Fry Creek Trail Extension: With funding from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, extensions to the Fry Creek Trail providing direct access to the Graystone, Fox Hollow, and Copperleaf developments are now complete.

Sanitary Sewer Projects:

Replacing aging lift stations and eliminating increasing operation and maintenance costs by installing gravity lines has been an on-going objective of sanitary sewer projects under construction during the last year. Planned projects that are programmed for construction over the next year include:

Blue Ridge Interceptor Sewer: Gravity interceptor sewer line providing future sewer service to the Knight Industrial Park as well as a 25+ year old lift station serving the Blue Ridge development.

Sunburst Interceptor Sewer: Extending the Blue Ridge interceptor sewer line will eliminate the Sunburst Lift Station as well as preclude the need for a previously planned lift station to serve the 131st & Mingo vicinity.

City Hall Complex Master Plan:

Moving forward from the renovations of City Hall, preparation of a Master Plan for the City Hall complex (City Hall and Dawes Building) is underway to optimize both facilities for both current and future needs. Building and staff organizational options will be evaluated to optimize the overall layout for both Public access and internal coordination.

Transportation:

146th & Memorial – Design is underway for the signalization of the intersection of 146th & Memorial. The project received 100% State Funding for the construction phase. The signals at 148th and at 151st will be coordinated with the new signal at 146th to optimize traffic flow and signal operations through the intersections. *Continued on page 8*

Drainage Projects:

FEMA HMGP: 111th Street & 90th E. Ave.: Work will be completed this summer on the FEMA funded project to eliminate street and property flooding downstream of 111th Street on 89th and 90th E. Ave. as well as over 113th Street.

Haikey Creek Flood Protection Project: This Vision 2025 funded project will remove nearly 920 acres from the Haikey Creek Floodplain between 121st and 141st Streets, west of Garnett through the construction of a levee and channel widening. Right-of-way acquisition is complete and project approval received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The City is working with FEMA to complete approval on anticipated floodplain mapping changes, after which, project construction will proceed in phases, through a combination of Public projects and Public/Private partnerships. Construction of bridge elements should begin later this year.

CDBG Storm Sewer Projects – Jim King Addition and Original Township/Midland Addition: Both of these Department of Commerce grant projects to install storm sewer systems for the purpose of providing drainage relief to qualifying areas in the City are complete. Extensions of these projects under the same grant program will continue over the next year.

Bixby Launches Emergency Notification Service

The City of Bixby is pleased to announce the launch of the Blackboard Connect service, our new city-to-resident/business automated emergency notification system available at no cost to Bixby residents. With this service, city leaders can send important voice messages to residents and businesses within minutes with specific information about time-sensitive or common-interest issues such as emergencies and local community matters. The service also includes critical weather alert advisories to warn area residents of imminent weather emergencies. The Connect service will be used to supplement our current communication plans and enhance public safety/first responder services.

The logo for Blackboard Connect, featuring the words "Blackboard" and "connect" in a white, sans-serif font on an orange rectangular background. The "connect" part is smaller and positioned below "Blackboard".

Bixby residents' land-line phone numbers will be pre-loaded into our system. At their discretion citizens may opt-out of the land-line notification. For your own safety as well as the safety of your family, we urge you to maintain land-line connection and to add your family's mobile devices. We know your personal information is important, and rest assured we will not share it with anyone. If you have NOT already received a test phone call from us or you would like to enroll your family's mobile devices, visit our website at www.bixby.com and click the Blackboard Connect image to sign up.

What is the Blackboard Connect service?

The Blackboard Connect service allows authorized city leaders to create and rapidly release time-sensitive messages to every telephone number stored in the notification database. With the Blackboard Connect service, authorized users can send thousands of messages in minutes. Only authorized officials are allowed access to the Blackboard system.

How does the service work?

Authorized officials compose and record a voice, email, and text message. That message is then delivered to individual telephones, cell phones, and email-receiving devices.

What types of messages will be sent using the service?

Any message regarding the safety or welfare of our community would be released using the service. Examples include severe weather warnings, hazardous traffic or road conditions inside the city or affecting local routes, water service interruptions, and any other situation that could impact the safety, property, or welfare of our citizens.

Does this replace other systems that have been used to provide time-sensitive information to residents?

It is a significant addition to existing means of communication and is supplemental to, not a replacement for, systems we currently use. Also, TV, radio and our city website will continue to broadcast important announcements.

Is my telephone number included in the notification database?

It is our intention that every residence and commercial facility in our community be included in the notification database. For businesses, we only store one main phone number. For residents, we may have more than one number that belongs to you in the database. Additionally, you may request to have a secondary number (such as a cell phone) be entered into our database for priority calling. **Ensure your family's safety by enrolling your mobile devices today!**

Register Your Storm Shelter Today!

PAGE 9

The recent wide spread tornado devastation experienced by Oklahomans has caused many residents to update their home shelter-in-place plans, increasing interest in constructing residential storm shelters.

The City of Bixby Storm Shelter Registry is a free program initiated by our Emergency Management department and Bixby Fire Rescue. The purpose of the storm shelter registry is to provide a database of the location of residential storm shelter/safe room locations in and around Bixby to assist emergency agencies in providing aid to victims of severe weather. The registry will be a valuable tool for emergency agencies in locating and assisting residents that may have been trapped in their storm shelters by tornado debris.

The registry consists of a list of storm shelters/safe rooms and key information for each, such as contact information, shelter address, shelter type, and where on the property the shelter is located. The Bixby Emergency Management department will maintain the database and the shelter addresses will be used to map all storm shelter/safe room locations. In the event of a natural disaster, address lists and address maps of affected areas can be distributed to emergency responders so that those in need of assistance can be quickly located.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

We encourage anyone with a safe room or storm shelter to register by obtaining a Storm Shelter Registry form at City Hall, 116 W. Needles, or use the online registry form at www.bixby.com. Click on City Government and go to Emergency Management to submit your shelter information. Please be prepared to provide a name, phone number(s), email, shelter address, shelter location (i.e. back yard, front yard, garage, etc...) and shelter type (safe room, in-ground, basement, garage). You can register a safe room, storm shelter, in-ground storm shelters, garage shelter installation, or basements. Residents are encouraged to share the location of their storm shelter/safe room with family and neighbors first and not expect that emergency responders can go immediately to individual shelters.

PRIVACY

Your storm shelter/safe room information will not be shared for any reason other than to aid emergency responders.

Thinking of adding a storm shelter, safe room, or garage floor shelter to your existing home? You will first need to obtain a building permit. Visit www.bixby.com under the Permitting Process listed under Business and Development.

City Upgrades Its Outdoor Warning Sirens

The City of Bixby has completed a system-wide overhaul of its community outdoor warning sirens system to enhance public safety for Bixby residents, using G.O. Bond Issue proceeds and city capital improvement funds.

City of Bixby Tornado Warning Siren System

The City of Bixby tornado warning siren system consists of fourteen strategically located warning sirens featuring the latest technology and will soon include a fifteenth location, in southwest Bixby. Tornado warning sirens are tested with an audible tone or activated silently by emergency management personnel at noon each Saturday, weather permitting, covering the entire system; or selectively by locations throughout Bixby.

The tornado warning siren system has been developed to help those in outdoor areas be aware that a tornado warning has been issued in Bixby areas near the city within southern Tulsa County. A tornado warning means a tornado may have been indicated on Doppler radar or our personnel have spotted a funnel cloud or tornado in progress.

What to Do When You Hear the Sirens

The sole purpose of the siren system is to let citizens participating in outdoor activities know they need to take shelter indoors and seek further information on what they should do from radio, television or other sources. Since the sound waves from the sirens do not penetrate buildings and other obstacles very well, the system is designed as an outdoor warning system only. When you hear the sirens, remember, go indoors and get information on what to do next. There is no all-clear signal; if you hear the sirens activated again, treat it as a real emergency and continue to take sheltering actions. When you hear the sirens please do not call 911 to ask why the sirens are sounding unless you have an emergency. It is every family's responsibility to prepare and periodically review its own shelter-in-place plans. See our website www.bixby.com for advice.



City of Bixby
PO Box 70
116 W Needles
Bixby, OK 74008

PRSRT STD
EDDM
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.

*****EDDM*****

Postal Customer

Reminders for a SAFE Fourth of July Celebration

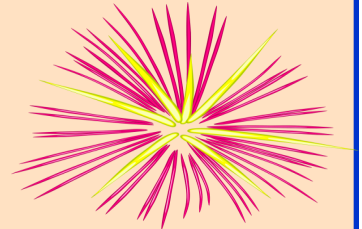
The use of Class 1.4G fireworks may be legally discharged within the Bixby city limits only by homeowners who have secured a permit to do so, on July 4, 5 & 6th, between the hours of 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 pm, as described more fully in the FAQ found at www.bixby.com under “In the News” section.

Permits required to legally discharge fireworks in city limits.

Permits cost \$20.00, and are available starting April 1st – July 3rd, at City

Hall 116 W. Needles, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. City Hall will be closed July 4th. **The fine for discharging fireworks within the Bixby city limits without a permit is \$350.00.**

Permit holders please assist the City of Bixby’s First Responders by ensuring all roadways are easily accessible and are not blocked, in the event we need to respond to any emergencies in your subdivision. Please make every attempt to have permits visible and accessible for police and fire officials as we try to ensure everyone has a permit and has been briefed on the safety requirements, so that all may enjoy a great Fourth of July.



***Bentley Park
Splash Pad***

Hours Of Operation
9:00am to 9:00pm
Monday-Friday

Social Networks
www.bixby.com



twitter.com/CityOfBixby



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Bixby/440404316030681>